

# Valley Women's Voice

February, 1981

Number 1

Volume III

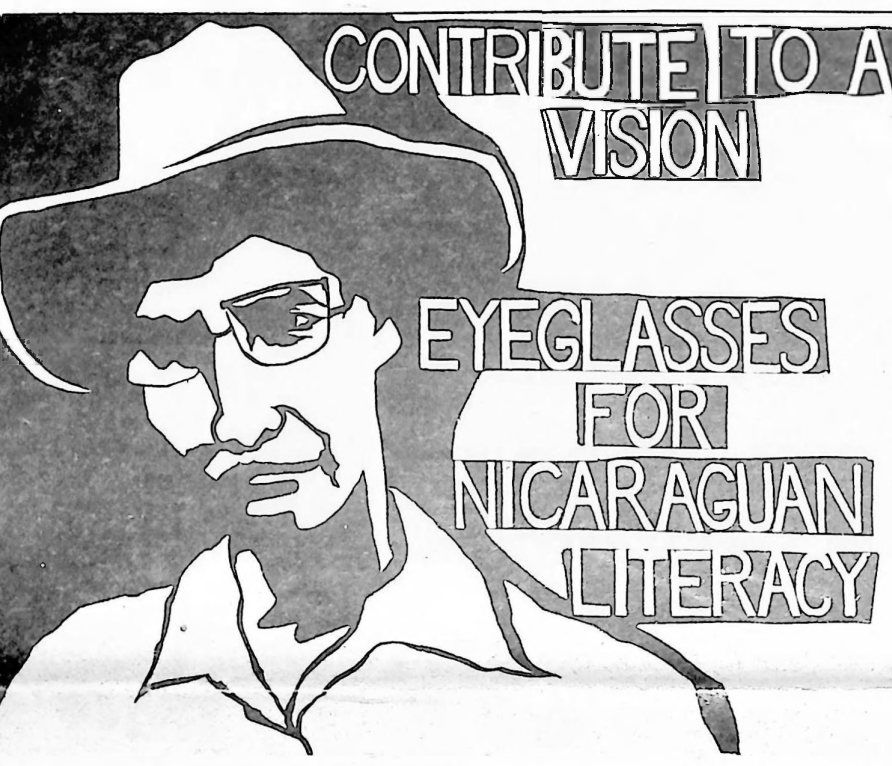
## Local Group Supports Nicaragua

BY Laurie Kleinmann

The Western Mass Latin American Solidarity Committee which has worked in the five college community for seven years is running a campaign during the month of February entitled "Eyeglasses for Nicaraguan Literacy: A Contribution to a Vision."

The new government of Nicaragua recently carried out a far-reaching literacy campaign, reducing the illiteracy rate from 50% to 12% in just five months. They discovered in their efforts that more than half the people examined suffered from correctable eye problems. There is practically no eye care for the poor in Nicaragua, liberated just eighteen months ago from the Somoza dictatorship.

The necessity of this campaign and its support of Nicaraguan reconstruction is of particular significance to all women who are faced daily with the struggle against societies who deny women's basic needs. The level of women's involvement in the popular anti-Somoza resistance has set up a precedent for women in liberation struggles throughout the world. Women comprised as much as 30% of the ranks of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). They were not just given this role by the Sandinist leadership, although women's emancipation had been one of the FSLN's programmatic points since the founding of the organization in 1961. Some women were in guerilla cells in the mountains for many years, working as medics, fighting in the front lines or carrying out other tasks of their organization. Women gave critical leadership and organization to the urban resistance which



graphic thanks to Western Mass. Latin American Solidarity Committee

took the form of clandestine first aid centers, refuge for combatants and many other functions. Women established clinics and communications networks and were instrumental in organizing the Civil Defense Committees for the protection of the civilian population as Somoza's attack on that sector increased.

Today women hold positions of responsibility and often leadership in almost every government office and min-

istry. Women are in charge of two of the five Secretariats of the SFLN (those of mass organizations and external relations) and a woman directs the Front's political work in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

The women's resistance organization Association of Women Confronting the National Problem (AMPRONAC) was renamed after the July 1979 overthrow of Somoza. It is now called the Luisa

Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association (AMNLAE) in honor of the first woman in the FSLN to die in combat (in 1970). According to Lea Guido (FSLN member, former head of AMPRONAC and new Minister of Health) a key factor in the unprecedented participation of women of the popular sectors is their role as the economic pillars of the family in Nicaragua. As many as 50% of the households are headed by single women abandoned by men who fathered their children. Even when men remain with their families, the high rate of both seasonal and permanent unemployment has hinged family survival on the ingenuity and industriousness of women. The history of primary responsibility in the daily struggle, says Guido, has forged strong and determined personalities among Nicaraguan women.

Participation has also brought a sense of self-respect to many women. One domestic worker who had raised nine children alone said, after the victory, "Women weren't aware of anything; they only washed, ironed, cooked, had children and that was it. But now, I tell you, we're awakened."

Today's AMNLAE's immediate goal is to organize women from all sectors of society into a national organization. It focuses on continued education, development of women's professional and technical skills (prostitutes are a targeted sector for these programs) and establishment of childcare centers and food services to mitigate hardship for women in the labor forces.

Nicaraguan women believe that their emergence as individuals is intricately connected with the restructuring of society.

continued on page 6



see related VWV story

See story on page 3

photo by Cathy Collins

# NEWSBRIEFS

by Michaelann

Whenever we take the time to reflect on our lives and situations, we create within that time, space for an ending and a new beginning.

As I write this Ronald Reagan is taking the oath of office for the Presidency of the United States. Perhaps no time in recent history has called more urgently for our world's citizens to reflect on our past and to choose a direction for our future.

This month the *Newsbrief* column will attempt to review the major issues we have dealt with in 1980. They are not prioritized, and I apologize in advance for the oversights which are bound to occur.

**INTERNATIONAL:** Across the world, 75% of our people are less than adequately nourished. The **SALT II** treaty is dead. This treaty, signed by Carter and Brezhnev last year, would have provided arms limitation standards for the U.S. and USSR. Reagan believes that the entire treaty should be scrapped and a new treaty renegotiated. However, Reagan and his entourage have considerably stricter standards about what is necessary for the 'defense' of the U.S. In the **SOVIET UNION**, dissidents continue to be jailed, and four feminists are exiled. Lesbians are locked away in mental hospitals to be 'reeducated.' **AFGHANISTAN** is invaded 'for its own good.' Workers strike in **POLAND**.

**EUROPE** is dealing with an upsurge of anti-semitism, highlighted by the bombing of a synagogue in **FRANCE**. France has tightened its abortion rules, and dozens of French police have been accused of sexual harassment and rape. **SPAIN** continues its monarchy, and has outlawed its Feminist Party. Civil war continues in **IRELAND**, where Northern Ireland activist Bernadette Devlin and her husband are shot and seriously injured. In **ENGLAND**, Jack the Ripper claims his 13th woman victim and is finally captured. **WORKERS'** strikes continue across the country.

**INDONESIA's** U.S. supported takeover of **EAST TIMOR** pushes more than 70% of its population toward starvation. Police in **INDIA** are under fire for their practice of blinding and torturing suspected dissidents and criminals. While much of the population continues to exist at starvation levels, police have arrested 2,000 farmers seeking higher prices for their produce. Women are routinely raped in jails. In **CHINA**, the ten year Cultural Revolution stands trial with Mao's widow, Jiang Ching. Their border war with Vietnam continues. **JAPAN** has arrested a Canadian Greenpeace activist for freeing 150 dolphins from slaughter pens, and is one of the few nations to continue whaling inspite



photo by Cathy Collins

Laurie Kleinmann and Pat Sellers speak about El Salvador and Nicaragua.

of the endangered status of many species. **SOUTH KOREA** is still under martial law imposed when the U.S. supported President Park's assassination, and continues to jail and execute its dissidents and poets.

In **IRAN**, 52 U.S. citizens are returned. The **IRAN-IRAQ** war goes into its fifth month.

In **LATIN AMERICA**, **CHILE** and **BRAZIL's** dissident citizens are still disappearing, many of them women radicalized by women's role in **NICARAGUA's** revolution. **EL SALVADOR's** repressive regime is still being funded by the U.S. in spite of the murders of more than 10,000 citizens. **HONDURA's** U.S.-supported regime is having trouble staying in power, and freedom struggles abound in **GUATEMALA**. 10 **PUERTO RICAN** FALN members are standing trial in the U.S. as their country remains divided between statehood and independence.

In **AFRICA**, Julius Nyerere is reelected as **TANZANIA's** president. **ZIMBABWE** enters its second year of independence, as women reconstruct their society. **SOUTH AFRICA's** pseudo-concessions are met with ever-mounting workers' strikes and demonstrations. **ERITREA** is fighting for its independence from **ETHIOPIA**. **LIBYA** invades **CHAD**. No end is in sight for the drought devastating much of the continent.

In the **UNITED STATES**, refugees from **HAITI** are termed "economic, not political" and are turned away, while **CUBAN** refugees are accepted. **MARTIN LUTHER KING's** birthday passes once again without being proclaimed a national holiday. **NATIVE AMERICAN** land in the **DAKOTAS** is declared "national sacrifice" land to nuclear devices,

while **RITA SILK-NAUNI** is on trial for her life for defending herself and her child. In **MIAMI**, 4 cops are acquitted of the beating murder of black **ARTHUR McDUFFIE**, setting off four days of riots. In **GREENSBORO, N.C.**, KKK members are acquitted of the deaths of four socialist activists. Also in North Carolina, all charges are finally dropped against the **WILMINGTON 10--** after nine years. In **WASHINGTON, D.C.**, black activist **YULANDA WARD** is murdered. In **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**, the discovery of two more skeletons and a newly slain child bring the number of black children murdered by an unknown killer to seventeen. Unprovoked attacks on blacks in **BUFFALO, N.Y.** escalate to the stabbing of four black men as they wait for a bus, and the cutting out of the hearts of two black cabdrivers. In **MANHATTAN**, police seek a slasher who stabbed four black men to death and wounded two others in a single day. The **MORAL MAJORITY** raises anti-semitism to new religious heights when the president of the 13 million member **SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION** proclaims that "God doesn't hear the prayers of a Jew." 42% of all black children in the U.S. live in poverty.

**RONALD REAGAN** has become the 40th president, with ex-CIA director **GEORGE BUSH** as vice-president. Warmonger **ALEXANDER HAIG** becomes Secretary of State; anti-environmentalists move into Secretary of the Interior and Energy Departments. We can look for an increase in the already monumental defense budget, and the probable go-ahead for the **MX Missile**. Draft registration was reinstituted in 1980, although hundreds of thousands of 18-year olds refuse to register. Anti-abortion laws, supported by Reagan, have already been

introduced in the House and in the Senate. The **SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S CENTER** is bombed. 2,000 women surround the **PENTAGON** and vow to return. **DOROTHY DAY** dies. **YOKO ONO's** husband is murdered and handgun control is hotly debated once again.

The cost of living becomes too high for many to live. Domestic crude oil prices top **OPEC** at \$36 a barrel. As the proportion of elderly citizens, primarily women, continues to rise, the **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** nears bankruptcy. As the main providers of nourishment for their families, **AFDC** mothers will suffer even more as Reagan intends to sharply slash **HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS** including **FOOD STAMPS**. Food prices have increased 14.4% in 1980, and increased 9.5% in 1979.

**CRIME** rises sharply while the wrong people continue to go to jail. The trend for women in prison is longer and harsher sentences. Prisons are at maximum capacity across the country. Homicides in **MIAMI** have increased 90% in two years, as racial tensions there are complicated by the influx of **CUBAN** refugees. **LOS ANGELES** murders are up 25%, where two men are arrested for the slayings of at least 40 young men and boys. **RAPE** is second only to murder in dramatic increases nationwide, while the **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT** fails to be ratified once again.

The U.S. faces its worst **DROUGHT** since the days of the Dust Bowl, and the potential decline in farm productivity will have effects throughout the world. The **MISSISSIPPI RIVER** is at 30% capacity. What water we do have is in peril. Chlorine, which purifies 89% of the nation's water, has been linked to colon, bladder and rectal cancer. The **ADIRONDACK LAKES** can no longer support fish life because of high acidity from rain. Dioxin, the most carcinogenic of all man-made substances, is on the increase in the **GREAT LAKES**. **PITTSBURG** police are searching for the madman who ruined the drinking water of 20,000 persons by dumping in the pesticides chlordane and heptachlor. PCB's are found to have contaminated natural gas supplies.

An ex-Navy pilot has revealed he was ordered to drop half a dozen huge metal canisters containing radioactive wastes into the ocean 100 miles off **NEW JERSEY--** and his is not an isolated incident.

The **THREE MILE ISLAND** nuclear power plant, which came to near-meltdown conditions in 1979, remained totally unapproachable in 1980.

Across the world, Mother Earth seems to rebel against her mistreatment with drought, flood, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. How long, how long?

## Collective Statement

Our special thanks to the  
Resource/Referral Task Force at  
Everywoman's Center.

### RESOURCE/REFERRAL PROGRAM.

Anno Berdick  
Maria Dymia  
Ann Feakes  
Ceacy Henderson  
Mary Jordan  
Debbie Kehne  
Tatyana Mahoney  
Helen McDonald  
Kato Neilson  
Nellie Patrino  
Sandi Stark  
Marianne Stravinskias  
Susan Tobin

The Valley Women's Voice can be  
reached by mail or telephone at the  
Everywoman's Center, Wednesdays  
& Fridays, 11 am - 2 pm.

### SUBMISSION

Try to keep articles under 5 pages, and double-spaced, please! We can't guarantee we will print all submissions; this decision is collectively made. Submissions accompanied with a SASE will be returned within 3 months. Due to space limitations, we sometimes have to postpone publication of articles. All major editorial changes are made in conjunction with the author. Any questions, ideas-- call 545-0883.

### CALENDAR

All calendar and announcement listings are free. For more information call 545-0883.

### ADVERTISING

For information on display ads/classifieds, call 256-0156 or 545-0883.

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Special thanks to Laura McDonald & Sarah Van Arsdale for efforts beyond belief. Thanks also to Tyndal Kinsky



Two Years Old

# VWV Experiences Growing Pains

by Michaelann

The Valley Women's Voice is only publishing eight pages this month. As we prepare to enter our third year of publication, we women of the paper find ourselves in a place where a transition must be made. While the paper has moved in and out of crisis for as long as I have worked with it, more than a year and a half, never has the reality of the world around us pressed so closely or had such potential to disrupt the production of the Valley Women's Voice.

The women who produce this paper every month live and work among you, we are the same as you. We are not any more magic than you are; we have no strengths that you, our readers, do not also possess. This month, we feel it is essential for you to know how the paper works, how we feel about the paper, and who we are.

Many of us have thoughts and convictions to share with you. What we ask of you will become more clear as you read on.

by Iris Young

It was January. We were tired and feeling like lumps that never move. Some of us were besieged with the Bangkok flu. A man who believes in limited nuclear war became Secretary of State. Our cars would not start. A president who for us signals a deepening reaction was sworn into office. Some of us could not pay our heating bills. We held a vigil against the Human Life Amendment. It was January.

January also came to the Valley Women's Voice. During the first week we held our regular meeting to plan the coming issue. There were seven of us, tired, sick and worried. We questioned whether we could keep the paper going at all, let alone put out a regular sixteen-page issue for February.

Though over 20 women have contributed invaluable time and energy to producing and distributing the paper, the major part of the responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of very few women.

One of these women has gotten a regular paid job, because no one can survive forever working full time for no

pay, even if it's for a vital paper in a sisterly setting. The other women are very tired, and they, too, must think of survival.

We faced this tiredness with the awareness that countless feminist groups around the country and in the Valley must be in a similar state. When mainstream political forces are shifting markedly to the right, it is even more isolating and dangerous to be resisting them. When tax policies, rising prices, social service cutbacks and credit maneuvers create a situation in which it is increasingly difficult to eat well, or even eat, we must defend our very lives as well as our feminist politics. At such a time we know it is more important than ever to put out a paper like the Valley Women's Voice.

On January 17, we held an "emergency" meeting to which we invited as many women we could think of who have contributed time and energy to the paper. Over twenty women came, bringing coffee, donuts, bagels and good cheer.

Several women affirmed that the VWV is a good paper. We know there are problems and much room for improvements, but we are proud of the way the paper looks and what it says. We reiterated our commitment to keeping the paper going and improving it, expanding it, reaching out with it to more women in more places.

At the meeting we discussed the structure, process and problems of every working aspect of the paper. We set up new task groups for several areas which until now have been less formalized--advertising, production, grants writing. Every woman present agreed to commit or recommit her energies to at least one aspect of the paper.

We left the meeting feeling a bit recharged, but as a result of our discussions we also realized that we will need the time and imagination of many more women for the paper to grow into the forum and tool for networking and organizing that we will need in the coming years.

The accompanying article describes each major aspect of the production and distribution of the paper. Find out where your skills may fit or what skills you might want to learn, and join the work!

## HOW VWV WORKS And How You Can Work With It

We will describe each aspect of the paper's functioning, including our dreams and hopes as well as what goes on now. We hope the paper is in transition to a bigger and better operation, but that depends on the involvement of more women.

### Editorial Work

During the first week of the month, a meeting which includes women from all phases of the paper is held to brainstorm ideas for the coming month's issue. As we talk through news and events going on in the Valley, we think of stories to cover, people to call, themes to work on.

The editorial task group plans to institute a system in which individual women will be responsible for coordinating a particular category of articles. We are especially concerned with expanding coverage of news related to Third World Women and Lesbians. Other categories we have discussed are International News, Reproductive Rights, Health, Working, Mothering, Sports and Humor. We have also talked about an arts, music and poetry coordinator. How much we are able to cover will depend on the number of women working.

The editorial group meets two more times after the first planning session. After the submission deadline on the 15th of the month, it meets to discuss articles and letters, begin editing them, and discuss what the issue will look like. The final editorial meeting happens just before typesetting begins. Editing is finished, decisions about inclusion and postponement are made, headlines are written, and the content of each page of the paper is planned.

### Production

The paper is typeset on the weekend before the last Thursday of the month, and is ready for layout by Sunday afternoon. On Sunday evening the first major proofreading begins, and the paper is laid out page by page. The production group works on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, pasting up, moving columns around, proofreading, mixing pages around again, making room for the last minute news update, etc. Women who do this work report

that it is fun.

Work on production usually goes on until three or four A.M. these nights, but if more women participated, the time might be shorter. The paper especially needs women to work on this production aspect, in at least two ways.

**Proofreading:** The proofs are located in production at UMass. Women with as little as an hour to spare can drop in during the day or evening on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of production and proofread for mistakes. We will have a sheet of proofreading instructions and standard symbols that will be posted in the proofing area.

**Layout and pasteup:** We need women to work on the actual production process. Though experience would be wonderful, we also encourage women without experience to work on production. These skills are not hard to learn and can be used in many kinds of work. The process of deciding how to do the layout and the interaction over paste up are often jolly and invigorating. Being a night owl is not a requirement, we won't make you stay until 4 a.m.!

### Distribution

On the morning of the last Thursday of the month someone drives the paper to the printers in Holyoke, and then someone picks up the finished bundles that afternoon around 4:30. We are looking for a woman with a large station wagon or van who could deliver and pick up the paper each month, and who also might like to help with distribution.

Presently, all but 200 to 300 copies out of 8,000 printed are distributed in the Valley area, not counting our subscriptions, which go many different places. We do not reach nearly as many places as we would like. Each of the seven women who currently distributes must drive either to the distribution points in Amherst or Northampton to pick up her bundles.

We are looking for a woman who might drive bundles of the paper around to several other drop off points in the Valley where other distributors could pick them up. Together with picking up the paper from the printers we conceive this as a two and a half day job for which we would be willing to provide some reimbursement.

continued on page 6



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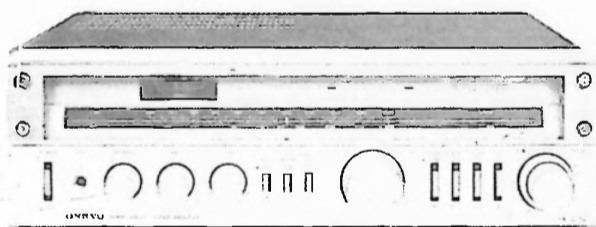
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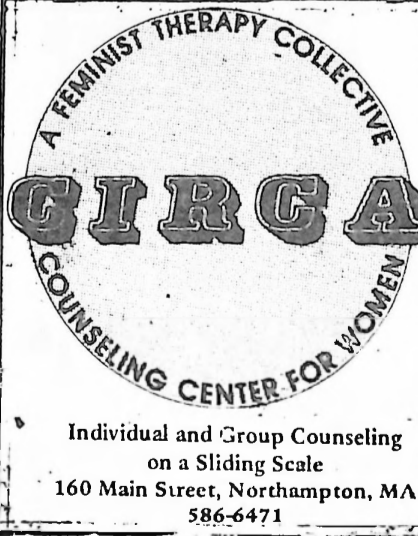
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# RACISM/SEXISM

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Racism/Sexism has two components: the exhibition referred to above (Feb. 6-March 20), and a series of evening symposiums. The latter are:

**Feb. 18:** Edmundo Desnoes, Cuban critic and screenwriter

**Feb. 25:** Christine Choy and Pearl Bouser of Third World News Reel, Greta Schiller

**March 4:** Lucy Lippard, art critic and feminist Joan Braderman

**March 11:** Representatives of the Committee Against Fort Apache-The Bronx and Women Against Pornography.

The University Gallery is located in the Fine Arts Center of UMass, and is open Tues.-Fri. 11 am. to 4:30 pm., and Sat. and Sun., 2-5 pm.

# Staffers Speak

Fran, what's the best thing about VWV?

FRAN: The absolutely most wonderful, most important 'thing' about VWV is the women! VWV is a devastating group of wonderful women. I love all the women who have ever been involved with VWV. I love the mothers, I love the lesbians, I treasure every woman's uniqueness and beauty. I wish more women would get involved with the paper just so I could know them.

What are some of your thoughts about VWV production and politics?

I've been involved in many different aspects of the paper, but there are still many skills I'd like to acquire and jobs I'd like to do. I originally got involved with the paper, almost a year ago, because I wanted to learn production skills- layout and paste-up. I am still involved with production, and every month I am still amazed by the whole procedure. It's very exciting to see what can come out of creative collaborative effort.

So many times we go into layout and Katy says, "This is going to look like !\*?!\*" and then the paper turns out to be gorgeous. The paper has really developed visually over the past year. Katy, Kathy Kirk, Marge Fentin, Adrian, Marjorie Seigal, Myril, Denny, Maureen, and quite a few more women, all contributed their opinionated eyes and exacto-knife skills to put together some very beautiful issues. I think it's important that women learn how to create both what we need and want to communicate. Both production and editorial strive to give an integrated balance between written and

visual, good and evil, personal perspective and hard news; from and about all women. True to our feminist spirit, VWV is committed to sharing skills with other women.

VWV is a very political paper. Working with so many dedicated, deeply political women is a rich powerful experience. We are not always able to accomplish everything we'd like to, or even everything we set out to, and that's painful. Still, I'm proud of VWV. I wish that more women would get involved and view the VWV as their VOICE, their/our network, so that we might serve as an even more powerful feminist force.

Michaelann, what do you think the VWV can do for women in our community? What are your visions for the VWV?

MICHAELANN: If the VWV can present a wholistic approach to all that's going on around us, then we can help our community to be able to put everything into a feminist perspective. I saw the movement of the '60's and '70's divide into political and spiritual, and when that happened, the end of that current wave of radicalism was in sight. Both sides of that movement saw the other side as missing the point, and they were both right. We have a chance to avoid that division. It's not that I don't see the importance of specific approaches to specific problems- I believe there's room for separatism or for solely spiritual perspectives- but I'd like the paper to present these perspectives as part of the whole of feminist thought.

Join the women in .

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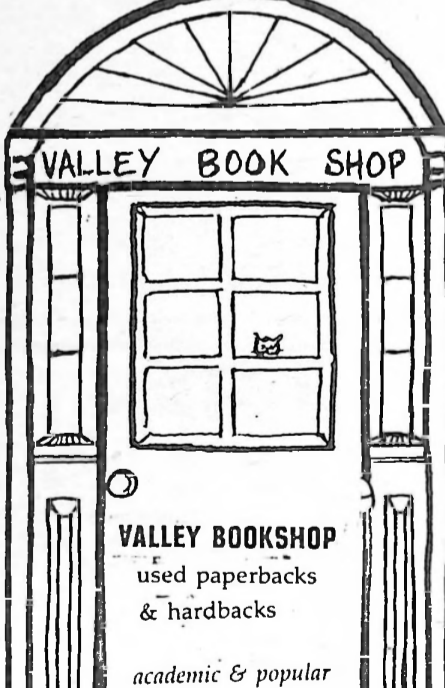
Let's

As one of the producers of the Holly Near concert scheduled for Feb. 7, I feel it necessary to address some of the questions, comments and misunderstandings about the concert. One of the problems center on the price of the tickets, which are \$6.50 each. \$6.50 plus a babysitter, gas and mileage could make this concert between ten and fifteen dollars for some women. With today's high costs and seemingly hard to come by dollars, this is not an inexpensive evening for most of us, particularly those of us who are un- or under-employed. (And especially for those of us who have become accustomed to women's events that are \$3.00-\$5.00!) In a sense, due to the \$6.50 charge of the tickets, this concert is accessible only to those who

are economically able to prioritize an evening with Holly Near. So why is this concert happening when the price of its tickets make it difficult or impossible for some women to go?

Holly Near is on a fundraising tour- ten concerts in all- for the National Women's Studies Association. We were approached by the NWSA and asked if we would host one of the concerts for two reasons: to help publicize our Women's Studies Program at UMass, and to raise funds to help subsidize this spring's NWSA's National Conference. When we were approached, there were many stipulations we had to follow, including the charge of \$6.50 per ticket. In order to get the loans enabling the NWSA to front some initial funds for the tour, they

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# k about VWV

I really think the time is crucial for us to take control of our world, and anything that furthers that control is okay with me-- as long as it's done in a non-repressive way, of course. Sometimes I see the VWV as dealing a lot with the Valley's already established world of women-- and I would like us to look at the world as a woman's issue. Again, I'm not saying that we should choose one approach over the other-- but I'd like to see more analysis of the issues that affect us, even if we don't see the connections right away.

For example, the economic aspect of my life is taking a lot of my energy these days. We live in a world where so many of us can't be sure we'll have enough to eat or be able to keep a roof over our children's heads. This is the world that needs to feel the full force of women's concerns and strengths.

*Marcia, as the woman who's been on the editorial group the longest, how do you feel the paper has changed in the past two years?*

MARCIA: We started off as a group of women who didn't know each other, who came together around the common vision of putting out a newspaper for women in the Valley. But this meant different things to each of us, and we spent many months trying to figure out what we wanted the content to be, how to affirm what some women and lesbians have been doing without other women feeling excluded, how to put forth an analysis without simply talking to ourselves. These are actually things we're still figuring out.

One thing I love about the VWV is how

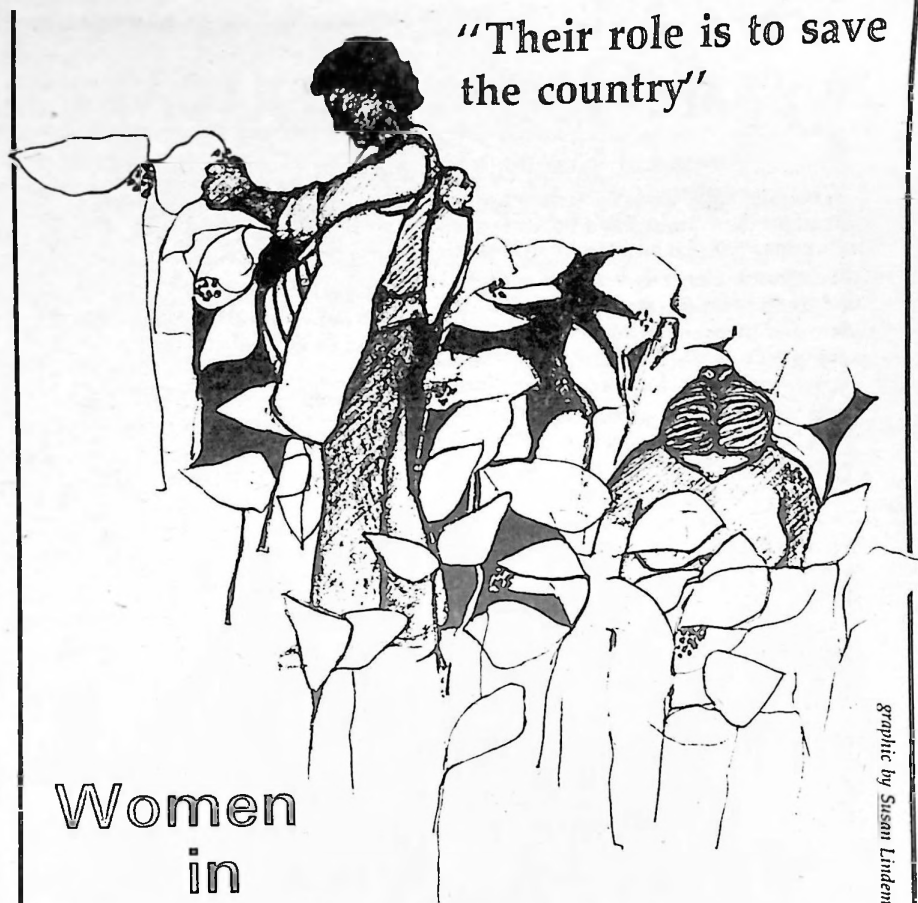
we're constantly changing, though there are elements that need to be more stable in order for individual women not to get burnt out. I look at the past two years and I see that the collective structure has continually evolved. I am very proud of how we started as a group of strangers and now we share a lot of love and respect with each other. I have learned a lot from individual women on the paper.

It's painful for me now to realize that given the economics of the world we live in and the forces we fight against, that working on the paper is not going to be easy. My ideal is that the VWV gives us energy, nurtures and sustains us, but more often than that, she takes energy away from us and makes our week to week living more difficult because of the time and energy demands of putting out a paper. The VWV sometimes ends up feeling like my enemy, my antagonist, when every day it's 'Oh, my god, something else to do for the VWV.' It's times like these that I need a break to get back my overall vision.

I am angry at a world that makes us continually dependent on male money for us to do what we want. I have a vision for the paper that we will someday be able to pay all the women who make the paper possible, and all of our contributing writers, artists, photographers.

During the past two years, the writers and editors of the VWV have developed, and are still developing a new mode of writing and thinking that, for lack of a better word, I call 'feminist journalism.'

continued on page 6



graphic by Susan Lindeman

## Women in El Salvador

by Marcia Black

Pat Sellers, who recently returned from an American Friends Service Committee fact-finding trip to Central America, described the women's lives in El Salvador, a country torn by war. "Some women live in villages, some have migrated to the cities. They work hard. They have husbands who they love, children who sing and smile. Their role is to save the country. They are guerilla leaders, they heal wounds, they do what they have to do. A woman's death is no different from anyone else's. Boys, girls, young men, young women, old men, old women... they might choose different ways to fight, but not whether to fight or not."

Over 10,000 people have been killed in the past year by military or paramilitary death-squads. The vast majority of those killed have been peasants, industrial workers, students, those fighting for the right to live and eat in human dignity. The Salvadorean government has received \$90 million in economic aid from the U.S. government, and during his last days in office Carter allocated an additional \$5 million in non-lethal and \$5 million in lethal military aid to the Salvadorean junta. The Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) had begun a

major offensive January 10, hoping to attain victory before Reagan's inauguration. Sources close to the State Department have been predicting the Vietnamization of El Salvador since July. U.S. economic interests are at stake, and both Carter and Reagan support the repressive dictatorship in El Salvador.

Those who are murdered are tortured first. Men have their arms and legs ripped off. Pregnant women's stomachs are torn open. Yet the majority of the people actively support the FDR, and many have fled from their villages into the mountains, which are guerrilla-occupied.

Religious, labor and political leaders in this area are organizing opposition to the U.S. policies of military intervention, realizing that the economic deterioration of this country is tied to the repression in El Salvador. The Western Mass Latin American Solidarity Committee is organizing in the Northampton-Amherst area, and can be reached at P.O. Box 571, in Amherst, or by calling Donna Reiter at 256-8860. The Ad Hoc Committee on El Salvador in Springfield can be reached through Lisa Desmarais.

Please send messages opposing U.S. military intervention to Secretary of State Haig, your congresspeople, and Cong

ters



were forced to contractually agree to the lender's requirements of a high ticket cost to insure repayment of the loan, due to high production and transportation costs. There were other aspects of the concert that were not up for discussion as well, including the fact that we had to raise a great deal of money ourselves. Taking into account these and other issues, we nonetheless decided to go ahead with the concert because we felt that the tour was important to support. We became excited about the prospects of both bringing such a big part of Women's Culture to the area, and of gaining valuable organizing and coordinating experience such as this. At the time that we decided to produce the concert, we were unaware that women

in the area had issues with Holly Near; that there were other plans and issues that we did not know of, and therefore were not concerns of ours.

Frankly, being inexperienced and few in number also contributed to missing connections and channels that might have made it easier for us, and in turn might have made us more accessible for questions, constructive criticisms/comments, and support.

These are my views as only one of the women working on the concert, and I hope they have made us more accessible and open for contact.

Here's to you, and the concert, as well as a supportive, growing and connected Women's Culture!

Adena Gilbert

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## Nicaraguan Support

continued from page 1

The strength and determination of Nicaraguan women have become a revolutionary model for women in struggle throughout Central America. El Salvadorian women, strengthened by the victories of their Sandinist sisters, are saying NO! in the face of the enormous repression of the U.S.-backed right-wing junta and fighting alongside their brothers for a healthy and just society where the self-determination of women can truly be realized. Support for these Central American women cannot be separated from Nicaraguan Reconstruction, the beacon of hope in a terror-ridden region. By participating in the "Eyeglasses for Nicaraguan Literacy Campaign" women are contributing to a vision, a vision of true liberation for Central American women. Perhaps this is most clearly expressed by the lyrics of a Nicaraguan song, sung at the beginning of a clandestine meeting of Guatemalan Indian women in the region of Quiche:

"Peasant women learn to write  
Peasant women learn to read  
Peasant women if you learn to read  
the land you're working will  
become yours."

### How you can contribute:

1. Collect your own discarded glasses. Ask everyone you know for theirs. Make announcements at your church, in your classes and at your place of work.
2. Volunteer to help us in our efforts. Go door to door in your area, or contact us with your ideas.
3. Drop off eyeglasses in one of our collection boxes; mail them (carefully packaged) to our address below; or call us for collection arrangements or further information.

Collection Boxes: Amherst: Logos Bookstore; Yellow Sun Coop; Jones Library. Northampton: Thornes Market, Good Things Collective, Forbes Library. Our address: WMLASC, Eyeglasses for Nicaraguan Literacy, P.O. Box 571, Amherst, Ma. 01002; or call Laurie Kleinmann, 584-1354 (home), 586-1597 (wk.)

### U.S. Supreme Court Decision

"We recognize the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted government intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether or not to bear or beget a child. That right necessarily includes the right of a woman to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy." 1-22-73

## Staff Interviews

continued from page 5

It is an exciting, revolutionary way of seeing the world, using our creativity, exploring the relationship between personal experience and larger truths, between self and society. But we rarely have time to talk about this new mode, and without the financial recompense, it is hard to step back and say, 'Yes, we are professionals, we have training, we have skills, and if only we had the money, just think what we could do! We have a radical analysis, we have great intelligence, we have investigative skills, and the VWV could really change the world if we had the time and resources.

question and plea to radical women to please help the VWV rattle and break the cages we live in.

Heather, why is it important to you that the Valley Women's Voice survives?

HEATHER: Seven months ago I moved to the valley from the Midwest-- and one of the reasons I moved here was the VWV. I was impressed that there was a vehicle here for women to share ideas and disseminate the kind of information that is usually disregarded or censored by the regular press. I was also excited that I could be a part of the VWV, that I

could work with other feminist women and learn how a newspaper is put together, learn new skills and put to use skills I already had. Most important, I looked forward to having a forum where I could say what I wanted to say and still get it printed. I was moving from a community where there was a considerable blackout in regard to women's news and concerns. This is true of most communities.

That's why I feel it's important that the VWV survives-- that we work to resist any kind of blackout. VWV needs to continue as a way women can connect to each other to inform, discuss and analyze, and mobilize, if necessary. I realize that after trying to keep bread on the table, very few women have the time or energy to do work that is unpaid. But I urge those women in the Valley who have the time, energy and concern, to work with the VWV. Our survival will be a statement of our strength, our affirmation.

As we enter our third year, where would you like to see the VWV go?

MARCIA: The VWV is a place where women can take action in their lives, and take the future into their own hands. We have recently reorganized the editorial taskgroup and now have specific editors for Lesbian news, Third World news, mothering, health, newsbriefs and arts. We want to have international, environmental and sports editors, too. We restructured this way in order to build bigger networks, believing that the VWV can be a powerful force in the '80's inasmuch as it builds coalitions and constantly reminds women of who we are in all our diversity (do I sound too rhetorical?) Yet we on the paper can only do so much, and I have felt, since the inception of the paper, that we fight against a tremendous amount of distrust and suspicion in women and lesbians who have a great deal to offer. I guess I want to end this interview with my usual



## How the VWV Works

continued from page 3

We also need women willing to distribute in local areas, especially Holyoke, Springfield, Greenfield, but also Northampton, Hadley, Hatfield, Belchertown and anywhere else.

### Advertising

The survival and expansion of the Valley Women's Voice depends on revenues from advertising. We desperately need women to sell ads.

In recent months selling ads has been done primarily by one person, and for that reason ad sales have been largely restricted to Northampton. It is vital that we broaden the area of ad representation, especially if we are one day to be financially independent.

We have formed an advertising task group that presently has three people. They will be drawing up a standard spec sheet for ad reps, along with a list of rates and sample typefaces. This task group will hold a training session as soon as enough women are interested in selling ads.

The VWV pays a 15% commission for ads sold. Our rates are not terribly high, but women who have done it for a while claim that a good rep can make minimum hourly wage.

### Staffing the Office

The VWV office is presently located in the Everywoman's Center at UMass. We might get a space in Northampton in the next few months.

The paper gets phone calls and letters, not to mention bills, which have to be taken care of. Filing needs to be done, labels coordinated, books kept, follow-

up phone calls made, and countless other administrative tasks that any ongoing operation requires.

A woman doing a student internship with us from UMass has agreed to staff the office, but she can use additional help.

### Graphics and Photography

We always need the creative imagination of women willing to do photography and graphics. We would love more cartoons! But we want to see the VWV have more in the way of every kind of graphic, from small doodles, to designs accompanying articles to full page drawings. We desperately need a graphics coordinator, and we'd like a cartoon editor, too.

### Grants writing and fundraising

The VWV has many dreams. We would like to have our very own office with paid staff. We want to pay contributors and be able to pay ourselves, too. We want to expand to 20 pages, and to come out more often. We want to use the paper as a vehicle for material support for other women's organizations in the Valley.

But for any of this to happen, we need lots more money. A grants task group has been formed, but it begins from zero in knowledge. We need women with some knowledge of potential funding sources for the VWV, as well as with skills in writing proposals.

We also need women with energy to dream up other schemes for raising funds!

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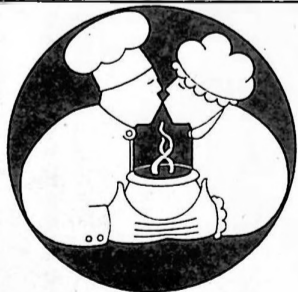
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## Saturday 7

Reception for POP-OUTS, art exhibit by Debra Weiner, 6-8 pm. Dept. Humanities & Art, Hampshire College. Thru Feb. 13.

FILM: "A Free Woman" Wright Hall Aud., Smith College, 7:30 & 9:30. \$1.00.

Holly Near Concert, Fine Arts Center, UMass, 8 pm. Fundraiser for National Women's Studies Assoc. Tickets \$6.50. ASL Interpreted. Wheelchair accessibility. Childcare by reservation only by Feb. 3. Ticket info: 323-6867 or 545-1923.

A Woman's Dance after Holly Near Concert, Rm. 101 Campus Center, \$1.00. Free food. Sponsored by UMass Lesbian Union.

## Tuesday 10

FILM: "Working for Your Life" Job hazards to women. Everywoman's Center, Public Health GSO, ISIS sponsored. Wheelchair accessible. 545-0883 for childcare.

"Little Theatre of the Deaf"-- special young people's presentation. 10:30, Fine Arts Center, UMass.

"Women in the Military-- the View from Within"-- workshop with Mitzi Wertheim, ex-Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy. 4:30 Franklin Patterson Hall, Hampshire College.

"Those People in the Pentagon-- What Are They Really Like?"-- lecture by Mitzi Wertheim. 8 pm, Franklin Patterson Hall, Hampshire College.

## Tuesday 9

Women's Media Project: Organizational meeting for all women interested in radio, news, networking, etc. 7:30, 416A Student Union Building, UMass. Info: Sue at 586-3159.

FILM: "Once Upon a Choice"-- by Liane Brandon. 7:30 pm., Herter 227, UMass.

## Wednesday 11

Everywoman's Center Open House: 4-6 pm, Wilder Hall, 2nd fl. UMass. Call 545-0883 for childcare and wheelchair accessibility.

Healing Ourselves: Yoga in Survival. Workshop, every Thurs. 7-9 pm, Campus Center, Rm. 903, UMass. Sponsored by Third World Women's Task Force.

## Friday 13

Bonnie Raitt, John Hall Band, Tom Rush in benefit concert for No Nukes. 8 pm., John M. Greene Hall, Smith College. Tickets \$9 in advance, \$10 at door. at Platypus Records, Backroom Records, Seelye Basement, Smith, 9:15:12:15.

"Communications in the Workplace"-- lecture by Judith Anderson. Kingston Free Library, 8 pm.

## Saturday 14

Wimmin's Yellow Pages Ad Deadline.

## Calendar



photo by Sarah Van Arsdale

## Wednesday 18

NOW general meeting: 7:30 pm., Eastfield Mall Community Room, Boston Rd., Spfld. "Reproductive rights & a Discussion of Proposed 'Human Life' Amendment." Facilitator: Kathy Grady. Childcare with one day notice: 267-5172.

Images of Third World People: Slide show. Thompson Hall, Rm. 102, 7:30 pm. UMass.

## Thursday 19

Jewish Women and Social Change: 1 credit course, 7-8 pm., Herter 209, UMass. Emily Loeb. Info: 545-2526.

## Friday 20

Paper Weight: Rhode Island Feminist Theatre, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston Library, 8 pm.

Relationship between Art & Work: lecture by Dr. Wendy Roworth, Kingston Free Library, 8 pm.

## Saturday 21

Democratic Party Town Caucuses to elect delegate to State Democratic Issues Convention on April 11 in Spfld. Info: Kathy Grady, 567-0467.

Career Conference for Women Considering Law School: Western New England College, School of Law Office of Admission, Women's Law Association, 9:30-4 pm., S. Presley Blake Law Ct. of WNEC, Spfld. Childcare & info: 782-3111. ext. 406. 465.

NOW Chapter Business Meeting, 7:30 pm., Maxine Garber's home. 395 St. James Ave., Spfld. 788-9742.

## Tuesday 24

Valley Lesbian Alliance: support group meeting, 7 pm. Call Network phones for info.

## Wednesday 25

Videotape: "Women & the Law"-- 4 pm., Seelye Hall no. 10, Smith College.

Lecture: "International Feminism"-- Kathleen Barry, author of "Female Sexual Slavery". 8pm., Wright Hall Aud., Smith College. Reception to follow.

"Hollywood's Images of Asian Women"-- Slides & discussion. Christine Choy. Thompson Hall, Rm. 102, 7:30 pm.

## Thursday 26

Paper Weight: 8 pm., Jamestown Theatre, Rhode Island Feminist Theatre.

## Friday 27

Sophia Smith Collection: Tours at Neilson Library, Smith College collection, 11 am., 2 pm.

Tea/Coffeehouse with Catherine Schuster, guitarist/singer. 4-6 pm., Women's Resource Center, Dair Student Center, Smith College.

## Saturday 28

"Women & Science"-- lecture by Leanna Standish, Prof. of Psychology, Smith College, 1 pm. Seelye 10.

## Sunday 29

"Women's Healthcare"-- talk by Cambridge Women's Health Collective. 2 pm., Seelye 10, Smith College.

Women's Poetry Reading by Susan Van Dyne, 7:30 pm., in the Gamut, Smith College.

## Wednesday 4

The Black Student Alliance celebrates their annual Black Arts Festival Weekend March 5-8. For information, contact Annette Cato at Ext. 2294.

Help! I'm Being Helped!-- Multi-media presentation on collaboration, sexism & the media. Thompson Hall, Rm. 102, 7:30 pm.

Concert: Gospel Singer Lisa Neustadt and baladeer Margaret MacArthur and her family string band. Grace Church Parish Hall, Amherst. \$3.50/3.00. Info: 586-5285.

## Sojourn Needs Helpers

Sojourn seeks women volunteers to advocate and work with adolescent women 5 to 10 hours a week. Apply Sojourn, 142 Main St., Northampton. Application deadline: Feb. 20. 586-6807.

## Counseling Collective

The Lesbian & Gay Men's Counseling Collective is looking for lesbians to volunteer as peer counselors. No previous experience in counseling is necessary, we are peer counselors, not professionals. We very much wish to be working with more lesbians. Interested persons, please call Estelle Gorfine at 323-5946 or the collective office at 545-2645 and leave a message.

## Announcements

## Wimin's Yellow Pages

The Valley Lesbian Alliance has decided to broaden the scope of the Yellow Pages by calling it the Wimin's Yellow Pages. We base our decision on many considerations. There are many lesbians providing a variety of services who cannot have their sexual preference made public knowledge. There are many heterosexual wimin who are also providing services and who need support from wimin for their efforts. We feel that all wimin are attempting to break down patriarchal stereotypes. Hopefully, the Wimin's Yellow Pages will encourage more changes.

We invite all wimin to join us in making the Wimin's Yellow Pages a viable means for wimin to support their sisters financially and emotionally. We have extended the deadline for ads to Feb. 14. We would like to publish in March, if possible.

Send checks to LYP: J. Raphael, Box 257, Sunderland, MA 01375. \$1-\$5, depending on what you feel you can afford.

## Womanshelter/Companeras

Womanshelter/Companeras, a new shelter in Holyoke for battered women & their children, needs volunteers to help with legal and welfare advocacy, hotline counseling, fundraising, childcare & community education. Volunteer training will be the weekend afternoons of Feb. 14, 15, 28 & March 1. Call Womanshelter/Companeras by Feb. 9.

## Wimmin's Basketball!!!

Wimmin's Basketball on Wednesday nights, 6:30-9 pm., at Greenfield Junior High. No shower. Wimmin of all abilities welcome.

## Bodywork Group for Women

A ten week course designed for those who have some experience with movement and touch systems. We will be exploring ourselves through the experience of our bodies. Half the class will focus on hands on techniques aimed at working with specific problems. The other classes will be devoted to learning new movement possibilities through structured re-patterning exercises and through improvisational expressive movement.

Class begins March 2 from 4-7 pm., at Chrysalis Studio. \$5 for 10 weeks. For info: Brook at 586-0317 or 545-1979.

## Women Outdoors

The 2nd annual WOMEN OUTDOORS Gathering: a weekend of workshops, outdoors skills and information sessions, shared community and spirited play. No outdoor experience necessary. From Fri. afternoon-Sun. aft., women from New England will converge at: Camp Union, Otter Lake Conservation Center, Greenfield, NH 03047. Fees are \$35. for members, \$40 for non-members.

Food included in fee, limited enrollment childcare. \$5 fee reduction for those who feel they need it. Registration: send \$15 non-refundable deposit to: Nancy Ryan, Box 361, Church St., Roxbury, CT 06783. Make checks payable to Nancy Ryan. Info: Carol Varner at 283-4693.

## SWO Course Proposals

The Southwest Women's Center will be screening course proposals on sex roles or issues concerning women to be funded by the Southwest Residential College in 1981-82. Courses should be designed as introductory courses for first-year students. Instructors should have at least a B.A. Preference given to those with an advanced degree and teaching experience. Proposal forms available at Academic Affairs Office in John Adams Lobby, Southwest Residential College, Amherst. Deadline: March 2. Info: Vicki Jacoby, 545-0626 or Avril Wellman, 545-2803.

## Compulsive Eating

A 12 week therapy group for women dealing with compulsive eating habits begins Thurs., Feb. 12, 7:30-9:30 pm., at CIRCA, 160 Main St., Northampton. Led by Mary Aubrey and Linda Tumbarello, the group will explore the emotional issues involved in overeating & feelings about body size, to enable each woman to make the choice that is most comfortable for her. Info or pre-registration: 586-6471. Fee: \$15

## SWC Needs Volunteers

The Southwest Women's Center seeks volunteers and interns for the spring semester. Students can earn 1-3 credits for staffing the Center, working on special projects, and participating in Center meetings. Call Vicki Jacoby at 545-0628 or drop in at the Center across from entrance to Crampton dormitory.

## Lesbian Anti-racism

Lesbian anti-racism group will be having a meeting Sat., Feb. 15 at 4 pm. at the Common Woman Club, Masonic St., Northampton. The group is open, and has met several times in the past few months. Check at Common Woman Club or at Womanlyre Books for info

## Lesbian Alliance

The Valley Lesbian Alliance has gotten great response to its Network Phones. We have added another line in Spfld. and would like readers to remember that the Network Phones need your help. Please call us when you have an event happening as well as when you want information. Network Phones are: Carol: 774-5464 (eves.); Judy: 665-4705 (anytime); Sarah: 253-3082 (days); Jackie: 732-4028

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# The Outcome!

by Kathleen Moran

It was a typical waiting room scene. Stephen had his feet up; I relaxed against a pillow. We passed magazines and yawns back and forth, and made trips again and again to check the logging time. The journey which we had awaited was about to begin. Only, we weren't occupying the usual garish multi-form depot chairs, or dressed in comfortable travel clothes, and armed with luggage. Instead we were surrounded by glaringly white sheeted hospital beds, while I tried valiantly to keep a breeze from wafting through the open back of my blue sprigged hospital johnny.

The sledge hammer contractions tore through me with an equal jolting force as a cart riding up the first and highest hill of a roller coaster, flinging me onto a plateau of pain where I hovered, struggling to keep from delving into a screaming loss of self, and held to sanity only by the cool blue of Stephen's eyes.

The trip had begun pleasantly enough. Early in the night, I'd awoken to the startling but warm flow of water from my membranes, which stopped and

flowed, stopped and flowed throughout the night, until at last, at 5:00 A.M., I arose, checked the astrological outlook for the day, and took a shower. I exulted in the luxuriant pre-labor excitement I felt, knowing, undoubtedly, that my light contractions would turn into hard work soon. Just before dawn, I telephoned my two sisters, states away from me, telling them that my journey to birth was beginning. One choked into tears, and whispered "I love you!" before hanging up. I sat, serene in their caring, quiet in the kitchen with the sun rising on my birthing day.

The matronly nurse inserted cool rubber gloved fingers into my overheated, labor bruised vagina, then suddenly the tiny room exploded in motion. Doors opened, carts wheeled, nurses rushed, and we burst into the steely white world of the delivery room. I was rolled, lifted, strapped and antisepted, while all participants took places, waiting, as I clung desperately to keep some form of composure in order to keep abreast of the constant torturous contractions, through the solace of Stephen's eyes.

The day had passed slowly, and had even begun to drag as we realized that

labor was not coming. Membranes which break and are not followed by labor run a high risk of infection, a fact verified by our trusted childbirth instructor. We left reluctantly for the hospital. The baby would have to be induced to be born, and all my plans for an "as natural as possible" hospital procedure would be firmly pre-empted by procedural medical technology. We were scrubbed and ensconced in a little room with electronic sensors strapped on my pregnant belly while mechanical writing arms recorded every heartbeat and movement of the being inside me, and drew mountainous pictures of each contraction that the drugs extracted from me. I flatly refused "something for the pains," fearing a clouding of my concentration, and set to work trying to keep from going too far out of control by frantically breathing relaxing breaths as I'd been taught, as the contractions seemed to catch me unawares, unprepared.

Growing from a groan to a raucous shout, my voice protested my agony, once, twice, sounding as if from a distance and I pushed frantically, lost to any consciousness except the desire to end this burning pain. A baby's cry jolted me slightly, but did not end my struggle, as I strained again and again to release her shoulders, her body from mine. Suddenly, she appeared, held out to me, profiled protesting body haloed in blue

surgical light, covered with mucous and bloody streaks, her lips curled back in furious grimace. I stretched my arms out to touch her slippery body, to warm her, and waiting anxiously as her cord was cut, so that I could place her, once again as close to my heartbeat as she could be. I sought Stephen's eyes one last time, this time not in need, but to share the moment's joy as we both explored her fingers and feet, amazed that she was whole and alive. The torture of labor was now behind us, epitomized now only by the carnage of my torn and bloody vagina, which lay awaiting stitches, forgotten by us in our excitement.

One part of our travels together came to be over, and the entrance to the next, our labor to birth, although difficult, was repairable, in a natural, benign, inevitable way. Our future, although less dramatic, may prove to be even more of a struggle. But these entranceways, these bridges between life's changes- pregnancy to labor, labor to birth, dying to death to after-death, and many others ritualized by our various societies, serve to remind us of our humanity, to galvanize us into awareness of the essence of living. Thus, the events and the memory of the events become precious in and of themselves. Our experience is enshrined, crystalline, on the birth of our daughter, Kelsey Anne, born on December 24, 1980.

## Udderly Hopeful

BY Sarah Van Arsdale

January thaw. On this sun and wind-some day, Joan and I slip our way over the ice-riddled path, down to the welcoming brown and white barn. Cow colors. As we pull open the heavy metal door animal noises and smells greet us.

A lesbian in the USSR is imprisoned suddenly in a mental hospital, and her friends know they will never see her again, but they wait, and they wait together. Frightened but undaunted, they still have moments of laughter, passion, and even serenity. Woman's love for one another has survived even under the worst conditions of male domination: it is what allows us to survive. Despite the tremendous hatred which we know forms a broad portion of our reality, we defy the edicts for us to relinquish our love or die, and we touch fingertips to cheek.

I am surrounded by the survivors of this war which has always threatened to wage totally out of our control. E. was tortured throughout her childhood-raped repeatedly from age one, but she still laughs, tracks the flight of common birds, and creates with me this new reality where we can be safe. All of our lives are filled with these brave warriors in the war against women: the raped, the battered, the women harassed on the street, at their jobs, in their homes. As each woman's story of torture is woven, there blends in a streak of red through the pattern, the story of how she endured: a sense of humor, a vivid ability to fantasize, camaraderie with women. A miraculous self love. These are the women who encourage me, through whom I see our continuance. Weave our own heriones.

Two cows in metal harnesses, lying side by side, chewing their cud steadily. They look at us from sturdy and muscled

faces which know the power in quiet waiting. The two are calm, but not content. On this false spring day they should be bucking loose in fields, tearing up fresh ground with wild hooves. I ask why they seem so satisfied. "They're happy to have each other's company," Joan assures me.

We even have moments when we aren't in reaction to male domination and its accompanying horrors, when our strength and beauty is more than what we do to live through the atrocities. These are the moments that make me wonder what we could be if we didn't have to contend with all the fighting: finding a magic stone blued and purpled by the rain, swimming pulled by the sea's undertow, watching a woman I love let her face fill up with emotion, listening to the winter branches rattle and clack when the starlings fly, becoming lost in the curl of my lover's hand. A man who makes no pretense about his hatred for and fear of women was inaugurated as president last week, but a young friend is falling wildly in love, and

both girls' mothers are lesbians. 50,000 people marched against abortion, but around the world the fire of women's insurrection is beginning to flame. E. has been having more memories of being raped as a child, but Joan and I walked down to the barns and conversed with cows. About a particularly staid and contemplative bovine, whose heavy flesh fairly sunk into the hay, Joan said, "She's thinking about the good old days in Greece when she was saered." Indeed, the tasks before us are tremendous, the current and coming punishment for being women and loving women severe, but I can't deny the rewards. We have endured the worst, and we bloom repeatedly like snow flowers in the blizzard. We continue to endure the knowledge that the abuses are unceasing, but this horrific knowledge is the touchstone informing us of our durability.

"Once a survivor, always a survivor," Joan sighs and the barn boards squeak and the cows rattle in their harnesses, kick about their stalls, rousing their passion, while they wait for spring.

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